

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

1-1336

FROM

LMS

This telegram must be
closely paraphrased be-
fore being communicated
to anyone. (A)

SEP 19 1936
Addis Ababa

NEP/AM/2
SEP 21 1936

Addis Ababa

Dated September 18, 1936

Rec'd 2:22 p.m.

Secretary of State, SEP 19 1936

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SEP 18 1936

559, September 18, 10 a. m.

DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

On the occasion of the feast of Maskal, an annual Ethiopian celebration marking the end of the rainy season, which will take place on September 27th the Italian authorities are planning a large military review. I have received an oral intimation that the Diplomatic Corps would be invited. The French Minister and German Charge inform me that if invited they would attend. The British Charge is asking for instructions.

Does the Department desire to express any preference as to whether or not I should attend if invited?

ENGERT

RR

SEP 21 1936

FILED

7

PREPARING OFFICE
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

Collect

Charge Department

OR

Charge to

\$

TELEGRAM SENT

Department of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TO BE TRANSMITTED

CONFIDENTIAL CODE ✓

NONCONFIDENTIAL CODE

PARTAIR

PLAIN

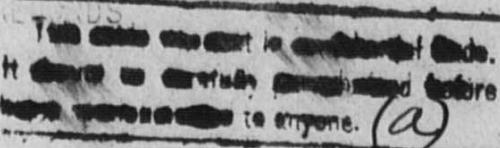
Washington,

1936 SEP 21 AM 10 19

September 21, 1936.

11am

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS



AMLEGATION

ADDIS ABABA (ETHIOPIA)

358

Your 559, September 18, 10 a. m.

If several of your colleagues attend, the Department sees no objection to your attending, if invited. In general it would seem best not to make yourself conspicuous by your absence if other representatives attend or by your presence if they refrain from attending.

Shall
(Rum)

WSM
NE: PHA/GC

123 EN 3/467

CR
SEP. 21 1936.

Enciphered by _____

Sent by operator _____ M., 19 _____

Dhy

#23 EN 3/469 865D.415/1



LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Addis Ababa, September 22, 1936.

No. 185

Subject: Marshal Graziani's Speech at the Opening of
the Maskal Festival.

DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

NOV 4 1936

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FOR DISTRIBUTION - CABLE FILE NO.

To the Field
In U. S. A. []

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1936 OCT 31 PM 12 09
865n. 415

COMMISSIONS
AND RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
M.S.G. - FILE
NOV 2 1936
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF STATE
NOV 2 1936
THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SIR:

Honorable
The Secretary of State
Washington.

I have the honor to transmit herewith, in translation, a copy of Marshal Graziani's speech on the occasion of the opening of the religious ceremonies connected with the annual celebrations of the Maskal Festival which marks the end of the rainy season.

The speech was typical of the Marshal in that he once again referred to the "malicious propaganda" of Italy's "white enemies" and to the alleged alliance between these white enemies and the Emperor Haile Selassie. Nothing could be more vulgar than his reference to the Emperor as a "mountebank" who, far from being in Ethiopia, is taking "a cure in England, accompanied by beautiful women".

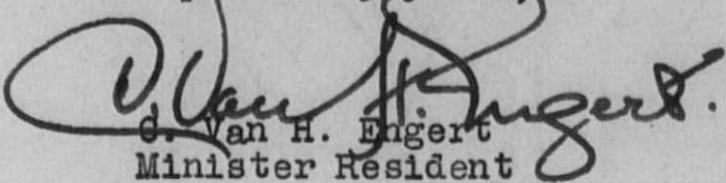
NOV 5 1936
FILED

865n. 415/3

F.P

Respectfully

Respectfully yours,


G. Van H. Engert
Minister Resident

File No. 710/840.7

CVHE/rh

✓ Enclosure:

Translation of speech.

Copy for Embassy, Rome.

Enclosure to Despatch No. 185, September 22, 1936,
from the American Legation at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Translation

Speech by Marshal Graziani at the Opening of the
Maskal Festival.

(From the GIORNALE DI ADDIS ABEBA, September 22, 1936).

People of Ethiopia and you all who are gathered around the lofty symbol of Christianity, listen on this day, sacred to the Cross, to the frank and sincere words which I address to you in the name of the King and Emperor.

There is still stealthily current in the land of Ethiopia malicious propaganda against Italy according to which it is affirmed on this day of the opening of the Maskal festival that Mr. Taffari - that same Taffari who has been despoiling the live body of Ethiopia with his greed and has led it to a state of ruin with his evil government - is now back among you.

This propaganda, based on lies, is supported by the white enemies of great Italy who are trying to bewitch you. The combination between our white enemies and your own mountebank is a truly touching tribute to Western civilization.

The truth is that Taffari is not here, for the simple reason that he prefers to take a cure in England, accompanied by beautiful women, rather than risk being punished by the Ethiopian people. We, the Italians, are telling you the truth because it is to our interest that the Ethiopian people should not be deceived but that they should cooperate in good faith with us towards the pacification of the country and the progress of Ethiopia.

On this day of the Cross I once more address you these words of peace, harmony and work.

In the name of the King and Emperor I declare the Maskal Festival open.

Central File: Decimal File 865D.415, Internal Affairs Of States,
History., Italian East Africa, Commemorative Celebrations.,
September 18, 1936 - September 22, 1936. September 18 - 22, 1936.
MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National
Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, <link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5109731158%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbo>
okmark-GDSC. Accessed 18 June 2025.